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kind. Again, the ordinarily accepted idea of religion, says the author, includes three elements: (1) a mythical, non-scientific explanation of natural phenomena or of historical facts; (2) a system of dogmas, *i. e.*, imaginary beliefs and symbolic ideas forcibly imposed upon faith as absolute verities, although susceptible of no scientific demonstration; (3) a cult and system of rites. Here surely are extremes far enough apart to make room for almost any mean, and question-begging terms sufficient to open wide the whole range of argument!

The attitude of the author is throughout tolerant, judicial, and courteous. There is no word of flippancy or of cheap ridicule. M. Guyau was clearly inspired by a sincere moral earnestness. He has presented a case which every open-minded student should give a thoughtful and respectful hearing. The translation, which is anonymous, seems to have been made with care and intelligence.

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GEORGE E. VINCENT.

LETTERS FROM THE SCENES OF THE RECENT MASSACRES IN ARMENIA. By J. RENDEL HARRIS and HELEN B. HARRIS. New York, Chicago, Toronto: The Fleming Revell Co., 1897. Pp. 254, map and illustrations, 12mo. Cloth, \$1.25.

THERE are certain epochs in history, occurring less frequently as Christendom extends, the records of which are so horrible as to give rise to a wide-spread feeling of incredulity among those who happily gain knowledge of the events only by hearsay. This incredulity is so much the greater as the press grows more and more eager for sensation at the expense of truth. Doubt as to the extent and horror of the Armenian massacres still widely obtains.

Professor and Mrs. J. Rendel Harris, reliable and unprejudiced observers as they are, have done a great service to history by giving their indorsement to facts that others have sent out from Armenia. The reports of consuls are not published; missionaries are supposed to be hysterical and blindly prejudiced; the Red Cross agents were pledged to tell no tales; travelers and reporters were not allowed in Turkey. The Harrises, in some unexplained way, were given admittance—probably as harmless archæologists.

This volume of letters is characterized by the wonderful charity, even optimism, of the writers, and sets forth, certainly to one who is acquainted by personal experience with the matters of which they

write, a very graphic picture of the condition of things in Armenia as it was in 1896.

These letters were written, we must remember, under the constant constraint of the Turkish censorship. The writers were the guests of the Turks. Their letters had to pass by Turkish postal service to Europe, and hence were liable to be inspected. If violent criticism were found in them, the writers were in danger of expulsion, at the very mildest, which would mean failure to carry out the relief work they had come to do. One could wish that their hands had not been thus holden. But, after all, the main thing is that they should indorse the fuller accounts that have come to the world from other sources. By their witness to events in Ourfa, Diabekir, Harpoot, etc., they add the force of their gentle Quaker veracity to the testimony already in hand as to the unutterable horrors of Turkish barbarity.

Incidentally also they give testimony, which ought to be of value to our Congregational churches, as to the work which their representatives are doing in Turkey.

The whole brutal truth, or as much of it as it is possible to record, should be preserved in blue books and other historical archives. But there is also need of an expurgated narrative, such as can give a somewhat adequate idea of this terrible struggle between Christianity and Mohammedanism, especially to the young people of our churches. Among the half-dozen volumes (English) which have been hurriedly prepared to meet the demand for information concerning the Armenian massacres this volume of the Harris letters seems to have peculiar merit. It lacks the sensationalism of some of the publications, and gives a fairer and less hysterical picture in better literary form. It is certainly a book that ought to be in our Sunday-school and public libraries, as well as in the hands of those who would be well informed in this department of current history.

Let us hope that some time Professor and Mrs. Harris may give us another more critical and less constrained résumé of the doubtless abundant material on this subject in their possession.

VASSAR COLLEGE.

GRACE N. KIMBALL.

ARMENIA AND EUROPE. An Indictment. By J. LEPSIUS, PH.D.,
Berlin. Edited by J. RENDEL HARRIS, M.A., Cambridge.
London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1897. Pp. 344, 8vo. 5s.

It is noteworthy that we have from a German not only the most